# ESSEX RECUSANT

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BRENTWOOD Essex

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THE SOUTHCOTES OF WITHAM PLACE
AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SURVIVAL OF CATHOLICISM
IN ESSEX

by
Brigadier T.B. Trappes-Lomax, C.B.E.

### I. THE HOUSE

The date of the building of Witham Place, which stood on the east side of the Witham-Braintree road, eight miles from Chelmsford, is uncertain. If it be true, as is probable, that John Southcote, the judge, was the builder, an early limit is given by his purchase about 1575 of a house called Petworths, with its lands, and a late limit by his death in April, 1585, for it is indisputable that Witham Place stood on the Petworths land. Had it existed at the time of the purchase, it is hardly conceivable that the deed of sale would not have described the then house as Witham Place and not as Petworths: subsequent deeds (1) refer to the house as "that capital messuage or mansion house called Witham Place otherwise Petworths".

The tythe map of about 1836, a tracing of which is reproduced, shows the position of the Place and makes it clear that the Place was not identical, as has been stated, with the house called Abbots alias Bacons, which Judge Southcote probably bought at the same time as Petworths.

Two paintings in water colour of Witham Place inscribed "Deline F.Talbot, Old Hall, 1797" are in the possession of Lt.Col. Honorable Henry Hope at Mapledurham House near Reading. It will be shown that Honorable Francis Talbot rented Witham Place shortly before 1786 and probably lived in it till 1800. I suggest he is the painter of 1797.

Old Hall was perhaps an alternative name for Witham Place at the time or it may refer to the house called Old Hall or Old Hall Green, which Francis Talbot's brother, Bishop James Talbot, bought in 1772.

In the latter case it suggests that Francis was staying at Old Hall when he signed the pictures. Old Hall, which is near Ware is now St. Edmund's College. (See B. Ward History of St. Edmund's College, Old Hall, 35,36.)

Abbots still stood in 1939 as a cowhouse and is stated by the Commissioners on Ancient Monuments to date from the 16th century.

Witham Place has fared less well. Although Sir Edward Southcote who abandoned his Surrey home in its favour in 1687, restored it (2) and William 16th Lord Stourton "added greatly to the house and made it a commodious and elegant habitation", (Muilman History of Essex, published 1771), it was dismantled about 1850.

In 1915 all that survived was a small portion, probably of the S.E. corner, in use as a shed; when I visited Witham in 1939 it had vanished and indeed the only visible evidences of the once "commodious and elegant habitation" were the faint trace of the most to the N. and N.W. of the Place and some 70 yards of the brick wall (3) on the Witham-Braintree road. The whole area was advertised to be sold for building.

Such has been the end of a house which provided a rallying point of the Faith from probably the last quarter of the 16th century to the end of the 18th.

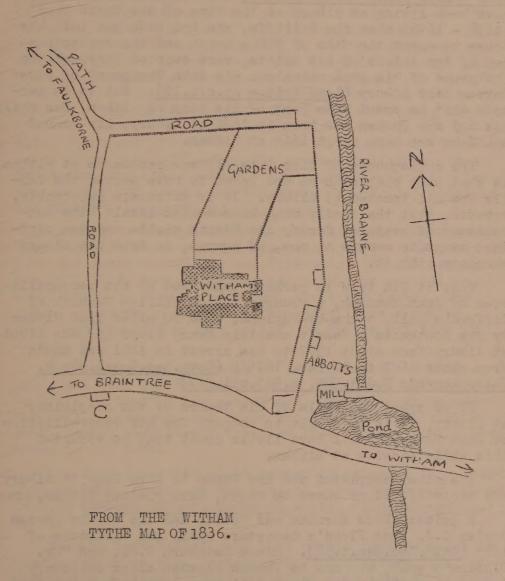
# II. THE CHAPLAINCY

The chaplaincy falls into two periods - 1575 to 1727 when the owners of Witham Place owned a second house at Albury in Surrey, and 1727 to 1800 when Witham was their sole home.

# (i) <u>1575 - 1727</u>

The former period may indeed be said more accurately to have ended in 1687 when Sir Edward Southcote shortly after the death of his father, took up his permanent residence at Witham, while still retaining at Albury, which he did not part with till 1727.

During this reduced earlier period, Albury was undoubtedly the family's main home. Thus John Southcote, the judge and his eldest son John, died at Albury in 1585 and 1637 respectively (4) and did not, I think, do more than pay visits to Witham, primarily I would suppose to superintend the management of their Essex properties. It was, for example, at Albury and not at Witham that Sir John Southcote, who was in possession from about 1653 to 1685, "was wont to



divert himself riding along his valley with goshawk in pursuit of pheasants... while his eldest son Edward kept a pack of the slow Southern breed of hounds", (Lord Hylton, Some Surrey Manor Houses 12.13), and Sir John is known to have been living at Albury at the time of the Oates Plot (1678 - 1679) when the bailiffs, who had been put into his house to exact the fine of £20 a month and the sequestration of two thirds of his estate, were evicted "through the influence of his good neighbour Sir John Thompson" of Upper Gatton near Albury (Lord Hylton op.cit.12). But it is certain that he spent some part of his time at Witham, for while his 3rd son Thomas was born in 1670 at Albury, his second son John was born about 1665 at Witham.

The consequence of this intermittent residence at Witham is that such chaplains as are known to have served the family are all located at Albury. It is extremely improbable, however, that the family will have denied itself "the conveniency of prayers" during its Witham visits and the readiest means to secure it was, of course, to take its Albury chaplain with it.

That it did this is perhaps indicated by the reconciliation of John Mannock, a younger son of William Mannock of Gifford's Hall, Stoke-by-Nayland, some 20 miles from Witham by the Southcote's Jesuit chaplain Henry Floyd (5) who lived at Albury from about 1597 to his arrest in 1601 and again from about 1607 to 14 Feb. 1625/6 (Cath.Rec.Soc.i.98: H. Foley Records S.J.i.505, v.547.vii.267)

If he spent the whole of his tenure of the chaplaincy at Albury, it is difficult to account for his reconciliation of John Mannock and I have little doubt that he effected this while staying at Witham.

The other chaplains who are known to have been at Albury and who will, if my guess be right, have visited Witham, are:

A priest whose surname was Morley and who may be George Morley S.J. from Floyd's departure until the Christmas of 1625 (Cath.Rec.Soc.i.98). Simon Swinburn S.J., and "Mr. Ploidon's son", who may be Thomas Plowden alias Salisbury S.J. from Morley's departure till some date before 2nd December 1626 when Thomas Curtis, S.J. arrived (ibid). The latter had left by October 1628 when Richard Whitmore al

William Moore or More S.J. succeeded him (op cit 99). In 1629 Whitmore was followed by a priest called Foster, who may be Robert Forster al Wilson al Darcy S.J. or William Forster al Anderson S.J. and who left in February 1630 (ibid). Simon Swinburn S.J. returned for the months of February, March and April, when he was succeeded by John Gravenor or Grosvenor al Altam S.J. who was replaced by Richard Whitmore in or before 1631 (ibid). Although he is the last chaplain at Albury for whom evidence has survived. there can be little if any doubt that the house did in fact harbour other chaplains until Sir Edward Southcote abandoned it in 1687. The latter explicitly states in his Memoirs, which are printed in J. Morris' Troubles of Catholic Forefathers i.363-410, that his great-grandfather, John Southcote, who died in 1637, "had a great veneration for the Society (of Jesus) and had every one of that order in his family". (J. Morris op.cit i.386).

Detailed evidence has been produced above which amply supports this testimony for the period 1597 - 1631, but as John had inherited Albury and Witham in 1585 and did not die till 1637, the chaplaincy can safely be carried back and forward to those limits, and since his father, the judge, is known to have been pro-Catholic in sympathy, very possibly as far back as 1575 at Witham and 1578 at Albury. (6)

As regards the ownership of Edward Southcote 1637 - 1653, all that can be said is that Edward was certainly a Catholic as he sent his eldest son, Sir John, to be educated on the continent and a man who incurred that risk would probably not have shrunk from the risk of maintaining chaplains in his home.

Sir John Southcote whose ownership extended from about 1653 to 1685, occurs in the list of Essex papists drawn up in 1680 (Record Office, House of Lords, Main Papers 321, c.17).

When he left Tixall, the home of his father-in-law in Staffordshire on 9th. September 1678 for Albury, the Jesuit martyr William Ireland travelled with him (A.Clifford, History of Tixall 269).

Before the second period of the Witham chaplaincy is

examined, it will be convenient to carry down the story of Albury to its close.

The Albury property was bought in 1578 by the same Judge Southcote who bought Witham. The mansion house was known both as Albury Place and Merstham House.

In 1727 the Southcotes obtained a private act of Parliament which declared that the wish of all the parties concerned was to retain Witham as the more ancient possession of the family - it had owned it only some 3 years longer - and authorised the sale of the Albury estate.

Albury Place is said to have been "taken down about the year 1650". Although Albury Manor House is mentioned in the Merstham Manor Court Rolls on 25 March 1799 and Albury House in a rental of the same period, it seems certain that nothing then was left of it except a barn, garden walls and the artificial banks of earth behind the later farm house which once enclosed the Southcote's fishpond (Lord Hylton op cit 10). Albury has therefore, suffered the same fate as Witham.

# (ii) <u>1727 - 1800</u>

The first chaplain of Witham's second period betrays a change in the Southcote's predilections as regards the religious Orders, for he was the Benedictine Francis Rookwood, the precusor of a long line of his fellow monks. It is significant also that two of Sir John Southcote's sons, Thomas and John, joined the Order. (7)

The dates of Rookwood's chaplaincy cannot be exactly determined, but he cannot have come before about 1685 as he was only born in 1660. He had gone to Acton Burnell, Salop, by 19 June 1712, and was there and in Worcestershire till his death in 1750. (H.Birt Obits 98: E.Estcourt & J.O. Payne Engl. Cath. Nonjurors 223: Downside Rev.iv.197. xviii. 174. xxiv. 315. xxvi. 259).

Vincent Palin O.S.B. arrived in 1726 and died at Witham Place on 4 January 1735. (H.Birt op.cit. 89; P.Allanson Account of the Missions served by the English Benedictines, (a manuscript at Appleforth) 26) John Aspinwall O.S.B. came and left in the course of 1735 (P.Allanson ibid).

James Buckley O.S.B. was here by 4 Nov. 1741, when Bishop Challoner addressed a letter to him at "Sir Edward Southcote Bart at Witham Place" (Oscott College MSS). In 1742 when Challoner administered the sacrament of confirmation at Witham, he noted Buckley as the priest in charge and a congregation of 60 (E.H.Burton Life & Times of Bishop Challoner i.211). Buckley was buried at Witham on 9 April 1749 (Witham register).

Edward Hussey O.S.B. arrived that year (H.Birt op.cit. 114: P.Allanson ibid and was succeeded in 1750 by Lancelot (Bede) Newton O.S.B., who was in turn succeeded before the end of 1750 by Joseph Starkey alias Harmer O.S.B. who was buried at Witham on 17 March 1754 (H.Birt op. cit 100,110: P.Allanson ibid; Witham register).

Louis (John) Barnes O.S.B. arrived in 1754 and remained to Dec.1774, except for a visit to the continent in or about 1773. (H.Birt op. cit.110; P.Allanson ibid; Barnewall A Hundred Years Ago. 20-37.43.57).

Meanwhile Sir Edward Southcote had died in 1751 or 1752 and his eldest son John had predeceased him. The next of his 6 sons. Francis, was a Benedictine and the inheritance passed to Thomas who was a lunatic in 1755. Edward. the next heir, had become a Jesuit. The fate of the other sons is unknown and they were probably all dead by 1755 except Philip who is proved by the annulet on his bookplate to have been the 5th son for in that year Philip, Francis the Benedictine and Edward the Jesuit placed the affairs of the lunatic John in the hands of trustees, Lord Clifford and Henry Hoare. The terms of the trust are not clear. In the first place, Sir Edward Southcote had in his will dated 21 September 1745 left his estate in the event of none of his 7 sons leaving issue, to his nephew Matthias, Earl of Stafford (J.O. Payne, Records of the English Catholics of 1715, 13). The arrangement made in 1755 apparently upset this will for Witham Place did not pass to the Staffords: indeed it is said to have authorised the trustees to administer the property for the ultimate benefit of William, 16th Lord Stourton. In Wright's History of Essex i. 200 however, it is stated that the Southcotes leased the property to Lord Stourton.

Whatever be the truth as regards all this, it is quite

certain that Lord Stourton went to live at Witham Place before 1767 (Record Office, House of Lords Main Papers, Returns of Papists 1767). That either he or his son became absolute owner is proved by the fact that the latter sold the property in 1800.

Shortly before 1786 the Honble. Francis Talbot (1727 - 1813), a younger brother of George 14th Earl of Shrewsbury, took a lease of Witham Place and apparently continued to occupy it until the sale in 1800 to the Protestant John Bullock of Faulkbourne. He died at Witham Lodge on 26 Nov. 1813 (CRS.12-124).

There can, I think, be no doubt that the sale led Lord Stourton to provide for the spiritual comfort of the local Catholics by ensuring the presence of a priest in their midst. Since the Place would no longer be available to house both priest and chapel, he, I suggest, handed over the cottage marked C on the tracing of the tythe map of 1836, to his chaplain. This would account for the tradition which Canon Galpin heard, as he tells me, from old people that the cottage had been a Roman Catholic chapel. The priest would certainly have used a room in his cottage as a chapel, as he had no where else. The cottage is, I feel sure, the chapel referred to in the Lords Sessional Papers V of 1836 as having been erected about 40 years. It was presumably in use until the existing church was built in 1851. This suggestion is re-inforced by the fact that the Laity's Directories show priests at Witham Place not Witham. in the years 1824 to 1834. A cottage situated as the cottage at C on the map could appropriately be described as Witham Place.

The succession of priests after Barnes' departure in 1774 is supplied by the Catholic Parish Register which commences in that year. The dates are those when they sign the register:

Charles Thompson, S.J.	7 Dec	1774 - 21 Fel	1783
Peter Jenkins, S.J.	21 Feb	1783 - Man	1784
Richard Antrobus	18 Mar	1784 - 20 Se	p 1784
John Paterson	8 Feb	1785 - 12 Jan	1786
Richard Antrobus	18 Feb	1787 - 15 Ma:	7 1787
John Busby	28 Feb	1788 - 30 Jui	1790

Anthony Danet Amandus Benard, a French emigr (He remained till his death on 18 Aug 1826: CRS, XII - 170)	é 2	Apr Jul				May Jul	1817 1825
Charles McDonnell, OFM	7	Jan	1826	design.	26	Nov	1837
James Doyle	10	Aug	1836	_	25	Oct	1836
William Woods	14	Jul	1839		6	Feb	1842
George Salt (?)	8	Jan	1843	-			
John Kaye	11	Apr	1843	_	29	Jun	1845
Charles Patrick King	24	Aug	1845				
Richard Boyle	7	Jun	1846	-	12	Jul	1846
Francis Ring	4	Feb	1847		25	Oct	1847
Antonio de Lima	24	Jan	1848		5	Mar	1848
Joseph de Silva Tavarez, D.D.	30	Jan	1847	-	21	Sep	1851

I select the year 1851, in which the existing church was built, to terminate this bald enumeration.

### III.LIST OF OWNERS

- 2. John Southcote son of 1 c.1553 12 Jun 1637 = Magdalen dau of Sir Edward at Merstham Waldegrave of Borley, Essex.

  She died 8 September 1598 and was buried at Borley (8)
- 3. Edward Southcote son of 2 c.1587 perhaps 1653 = Elizabeth dau of John in London Seaborne of Sutton St.

  Michael, co. Hereford. She died in London c.1650 & was buried in St. Clements in the Strand.
- 4. Sir John Southcote, son of c.1617 27 May 1685 3: royalist
  - = c.1649 Honble Elizabeth
    Aston dau of Walter 2nd Lord
    Aston of Tixall co.Staff. She
    died 25 Jan 1685/6 and was
    buried at Witham.

- c.1660 14 Feb 1751
- 5. Sir Edward Southcote son of 4: the writer of the Memoirs.
  - = (1) Feb.1685/6 Juliana dau of Sir Philip Tyrwhitt Dt of Stainfield, co.Linc.
  - = (2) Jane dau of Michael Lister of Burwell co.Linc.
- 6. John Southcote son of 5 e.s.p. v.p. = 1709 Mary daughter of Edward Paston of Town Barningham,

  Norfolk.
- 7. Thomas Southcote, brother of 1695 ?
  6 a lunatic in 1755 (9)
- 8. William 16 Lord Stourton Aug 1704 3 Oct 1781 = 11 Oct.1749 Winifred dau & at Witham heiress of Lord Philip Howard of Buckenham Tofts, Norfolk.
- 9. Charles Philip 17 Lord 22 Aug 1752 29 Apr 1816
  Stourton son of 8 at Allerton,
  = 12 July 1775 Honble Mary co.York.
  Langdale dau and coheiress
  of Marmaduke 5 Lord Langdale
  of Holme on Spalding Moor.

Lord Stourton sold Witham in 1800 for £5,419-14-6

10. John Bullock of Faulkborn near Witham.

co. York.

#### NOTES:

(1) These deeds were examined at Spa Place (which was another Southcote property) higher up the Braintree road and was sold in 1737, by the Rev.Canon Francis W. Galpin, Litt. D., F.L.S., who became vicar of Witham in 1915 and who provided me in 1940 with much of the topographical and other information contained in this account. (The location of Witham Place, as described by the author, is clearly marked on Chapman & Andre's Map of 1777. There is an

- important article, The Jacobite Southcotes of Witham by Miss Georgina Dawson in Essex Review 63 (1954), pp. 143-165. Editor).
- (2) The place had been sacked by a party of Parliamentarian troops under a Captain Foster after the siege of Colchester in 1642. (J.Morris Troubles of our Catholic Forefathers i.398, 399).
- (3) The Times newspaper of 17 June 1939 declared that the brick foundations of the Place used frequently to be unearthed and that in droughts a clear indication of the area covered by the Place was given by the grass turning more quickly yellow over it. The boundary wall was stated to be 2 feet thick and 14 feet high and that the western sector was 150 yards long.
- (4) Both were buried at Witham. (A striking portrait of Judge John Southcote hangs on the wall in the entrance to Apothecaries' Hall, London. A photograph of the imposing Monument in Witham church is in Essex Review 63 (1954), p.144. Editor).
- (5) He had no less than five aliases, Rogers, Bullen, Rivers, Simonds and Francis Smith. (That Henry Floyd was active in Essex is confirmed by his conversion of John Greenwood, headmaster of Brentwood School: see CRS 30, p.70.
- (6) Sir Edward Southcote's Memoirs describe how when in April 1584 a priest was brought before him for trial at Norwich he "resigned his office rather than he would bring upon himself and family the guilt of innocent blood." (J.Morris op.cit. 384.)
- (7) There is much on Thomas and John Southcote OSB in Essex Review 63 (1954), pp.151-163 (Editor).
- (8) No.2 owned a place called BULMER in Issex as is proved by a picture at Swynnerton Hall, co. Staff and perhaps lived there in his father's lifetime.
- (9) It is possible that No.7's youngest brother, Philip, outlived No.7, in which case he presumably succeeded to Witham. Neither he nor any of his six brothers had issue.

### by D.M. Clarke

'The names of them that were found in Mr. Wisemans house:

John Fullwood
Richard Fullwood
Richard Wallis
William Wallis
William Suffield
Raffe Williamson
John Stratforde

these men are all Recusantes and will not take an othe to the Queenes Majestie nor to aunswere to any thinge.

One Thomas was apprehended when his master was taken and hee fled away with his masters beste geldinge and a hand-full of golde that his master gave him.

All those were servaunts to Mr Villiam diseman who is a continuall receiver of all Seminary priestes & wente to Wisbitche to visite the priestes and Jesuites there, & since his imprisonment there was a Seminary prieste in his house which escaped away from the Justices and Pursevantes & lefte his apparrell behinde him.

Mrs. Jane Wiseman, his mother, hath bene allso a great receyver & harbourer of Seminary priestes & other bad persons; and went to Wisbitche with her two daughters, where (as shee saieth) shee was absolved & blessed by Father Edmondes the Jesuite (2), & since that time her daughters are sente beyonde seas to be professed nonnes, as other two her daughters were before, & shee hath a sonne named Thomas, who is a Jesuite in Rome or in Spayne.

Robert "iseman, her other sonne, is allso an obstinate recusante & will by no meanes take an othe; he is prisoner in the Clinke.

Mrs Jenynges, her kinswoman, soiorned in her house & is an perverse recusante.

Henry Cranishe William Clerke Robert Foxe three recusantes did soiorne in her house & were apprehended.

Anne Wiseman widow
Mary Wiseman spinster
Elizabeth Cranishe, wife
of Robert Cranishe
Elizabeth Crowe alias
Lowe

are all perverse recusantes and were abidinge with Mrs Wiseman & taken in her house.

Mr Wiseman and his mother had many more servauntes both men and maides, all which were recusantes, & none of them would come to the churche, to the greate offence & scandale of all her Majesties good subjectes in that countrey.

## NOTES:

- (1) S.P.12/248, f.200,200v, no. 68.I.
- (2) Fr. Weston.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

### by D. Shanahan

### 4. Edward More

Cresacre More did not like his Uncle Edward: "As for mine uncle Edward, who is yet alive, although he were endowed with excellent gifts of nature, as a ready wit, tongue at will, and his pen glib: yet God knows he hath drowned all his talents in self-conceit in no worthy qualities, and besides burieth himself alive in obscurity, in forsaking God, and his mean and base behaviour."(1) Edward certainly seems to have had a different temperament from his brother Thomas II and from his nephew Cresacre: these were most religious persons and perhaps a little gloomy, if we may judge from their appearances in the painting of the Family and Descendants of Sir Thomas More in the National Portrait Gallery in London - one might even call them lugubrious. Edward on the other hand seems to have been an odd character, flamboyant and rather erratic.

He was born November 13, 1535, probably in London, just four months after the execution of his grandfather. He grew up in troubled and dangerous years, for the name More was already one to conjure with: his father was imprisoned in 1543 for various treasonable offences, probably in connection with the Plot of the Prebendaries against Cranmer. but was released upon making an abject submission. (2) When his father died in 1547, Edward More was 12: ten years later he was living in Hambledon, Bucks, presumably with his brother Thomas II, who had married Maria Scrope of Hambledon. While there he wrote "A Lytle and Bryefe Treatyse called the Defence of Women & Especially of English Women, made against 'The Schole House of Women' . The dedication is dated July 20, 1557 and is addressed to "hys synguler & especyall frende Mayster Wyllyam Page, Secretary to Syr Phillip Hobdy". The wife of Sir Philip Hobday was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Walter Stonor, and Stonor is only two miles away, so possibly that is the connection. His "Defence of Women" was licensed for publication in 1557/8 and again in 1563: there are copies in the Bodleian and in the British Museum. Wood states that he wrote

several little things besides.

In the dedication he writes: "I could not choose (forasmuch I have a lytle vacant tyme from studye) but attempte something wherewyth I might be busyed & when I could not in a pretye space bethinke nor devyse what lytle work I might occupye myself with, that might be correspondent & agreable both to my small leysure and tyme. & also unto the place where I was at that present season (for I was in London). at last a booke inteteled the Schole howse of women came into my hands..." He admits that it is a peculiar subject for him to write on: "...a matter more mete and decent for a marryed man to entreate and wryte of than for a bachyler or prynkokes but of twenty yeares of age or lytle more ... ". but this did not daunt him. When he speaks of his studies, it is not clear what he was doing at the age of 22, but possibly he had been at Lincoln's Inn in London: twenty years later, in a Return of Recusants for 1577, one of those listed as "of our fellowshipp and remaine aboute the howse; but receave not the Communyon at our Chappell", is one Edward Moore of Yorkshire. (3)

His mother and his brothers moved up to the Cresacre estate at Barnburgh in the West Riding about 1558, and presumably Edward went with them. He was certainly up there in 1565 (4). In the records of the Ecclesiastical Commission Edward More is accused of absenting himself from evening prayer on August 26, 1565 and shooting at the archery butts which were only sixty feet from the church: also "upon sundays and holydays...he hath used in the time of common prayer to blow a horn in the churchyard or some other place nigh to the said church, making thereby such a noise and sound that it interrupted Robert Salven, parson of the said church, reading the common prayer". He had not prayed decently at church "but in the said church hath abused himself in exercising and practising indecent and ungodly manners... specially in laughing, mocking, jesting, talking and toying with uncivil and lascivious words... with one Bartholomew his brother". Not content with this "he hath sewed with needle and thread" during divine service and, "in the manner of wanton boys hath thrown or picked (pricked) the straws and rushes at Bartholomew his brother and others in the said church sitting nigh unto him, shewing thereby how little he regardeth and esteemeth

the book of common prayer". All this could be regarded as More's derision towards the church and its liturgy, or as Salven regarded him to be, "a condemner, despiser and derider of the book of common prayer and the contents of the same..."

But Edward Salven then laid a more serious accusation. He testified that Edward More had told his mother, Anne West, now the wife of George West, that "he, Edward More, was angry with Edward Salven, the parson's cousin, for that the said Edward Salven did say unto his brother that the Queen Majesty was supreme head of the church or like words, in effect shewing thereby his rebellious stomach against the said Sovereign Lady ... " and, "in contempt of the statute in that behalf provided against chiders and brawlers in church" Edward More had threatened his step-father. George West, with a bow and arrow in the churchyard, "holding his arrow in the bow as though he were ready to shoot, saying to his father-in-law West, 'West, will you any of this: stand for I will shoot at thee'". George West managed to escape into the church but More followed him into church with his bow bent and his arrow and called West "a knave and his mother a whore and that he could not take him for his mothers". Eventually the constable was called, but Edward refused to obey him, saying "he would never unbend his bow for never a villain of them all". By this time the matter was verging on a breach of the peace, nor was this the first time that he had caused a disturbance in church. The ninth article alleged that "Edward More hath grown into such an obstinacy in wickedness that divers and sundry times he has called his mother whore openly in the said church using such scoldings and chidings with his said mother in the said church...so that the parishioners...have been disgusted."

Edward More appeared before the Commissioners in September and was charged "that he hath gone divers times into the church of Barneburghe with (word scored) and carried his Bowe bent in his hande in time of devine service: the whiche objection the said Edwarde More openly confessed. Whereupon the said commission did committe him to the Castle of York, ther to be punyshed." We do not know how long he remained there, but on April 10, 1567 the Commission decreed "...the said Edward More that he shall be

present in the parish church of Barnbrough upon sondaye come a sevennight at Communyon tyme and when the curate shal come to the pulpitt, he More shall knele hym downe before Mystres Anne West his mother yf she be there presente and say unto her with an audible voyce as followethe -Whereas I have called yow beinge my naturall mother hoore I ame sory for yt and therefore desyre God and yow all others whom my so savenges have offended to forgeve me... And furthermore, the said Edward More shall then and there declare unto the parishioners being there assembled that whereas he hath carried a bow being bent in the church or churchyard of Barnburgh in time of divine service, if he did offend any man thereby he is now sorry for it and therefore he desires God and all them whom he hath so offended to forgive him...Alsoe he shall say that whereas he hath bosted and saide that he hayth had carnall (sic) and misused the bodie of one Jane Wyn, trewth yt is he hayth nott done so and therefore hee is sory ... ". It is to be noted that the commissioners ignored the religious charges against Edward More and merely considered the moral charges.

Four years later the feud between More and his parson broke out again and a long series of charges and counter-charges appear in the Act-Books. On February 7, 1570/1 the scribe wrote "...it doth appear that the said Edward More in his answers made to the article objected against him, hath lewdly and indiscreetly and unreverently behaved himself towards this honourable court with vain and indecent words mocking the same...(the commissioners) did decree the said More for that his contempt to be committed ward to the Castle of York and indeed did so commit him there to remain during their pleasure and yet resumed the ordering of the body of the matter still further."

On March 11, 1570/1 it was decreed: "Edward More for divers years has not communicated and received the holy communion so often as he is bound to by the laws of this realm...he shall pay twenty shillings to be distributed... amongst the poor of Barnburgh parish and other parishes thereabouts or the amendment or reparations of some decayed bridge thereabouts...and further, forasmuch as it is apparent unto this court by presumptions that it is very likely that the said Edward More compiled and set forth the infamous Libel and figure astronomical in the cause

exhibited, specially that he confessed the compiling of part of the same and for that by great presumption is pressed against him for the rest. And also forasmuch as it is apparent unto this court that the said Edward hath compiled, set forth and made a prognostication containing vain trifles, therefore the said commissioners did take the said Edward bond in recognizance hereafter not to make, write, compile, publish or set forth any infamous letters, writings, rhymes ballards or prognostications and also condemned him in the expense of the promoter of this cause." These "prognostications" had been a feature of Elizabethan life ever since the severe illness of the Queen in 1562. Forecasts of any change in the State as a result of the death or incapacity of any leading figures were looked upon with suspicion by rulers because they hinted at a possible change in the succession, encouraged the supporters of Mary, Queen of Scots, and disquieted the people. Such activities were specifically forbidden in 1581 by the fifth clause of the Act against seditious words and rumours. (5)

Edward More may have come down to Lincoln's Inn after that, (6) but he appears again as at Barnbrough in the Ecclesiastical Commission Act-Book for November 14, 1580.(7) "Edward More, gent. commanded to appear this day, appeared and took an oath to answer certain articles: and afterwards in respect that it appeared to the Commissioners that the said More had spoken something against the booke of common prayer & D. Latymer's sermons, he was enioned upon Sunday next to declare in Barnburgh churche in tyme of devyne service that the said booke is good and godly & that the said sermons of D. Latymer are godly and agreeing with the word of God & thereof to certifie this courte." No date was fixed for this certifying. His old enemy Robert Salven had been replaced by a Thomas Parke and later by a Thomas Jopson, but More still seems to have been feuding with his parsons, although the reason is not given. (8)

There are many references to an Edward More in various London prisons between 1582 and 1586, and an Edward More was living in Leyton with Thomas More II from about 1592 to about 1605: but this would appear to be Edward Moore or de la More, son of Thomas Moore of Haddon, Bampton, Co. Oxon. To make confusion worse, this Edward More had married Mary, eldest daughter of Thomas More II. We know that Thomas

More V was a son of this younger Edward More (9), and there is a vehement suspicion that the other famous Jesuit priest and historian, Henry More, is of the same family rather than of the Edward More of Barnburgh. Indeed there is little evidence that the older Edward More was ever down in Leyton at all, but further research may throw light on this.

In his Will dated July 22, 1606, Thomas More II left "to my brother Edward Moore tenne pounds. To Anne More daughter of the said Edward Moore Tenne pounds."(10)

The death of this strange and turbulent man is recorded in 1620 in the Registers of Barnburgh parish church (11)

### NOTES:

- (1) "Life of Sir Thomas More" by Cresacre More, ed. Hunter (1828), pp. 291-2.
- (2) Cf.Notes by Prof.A.W.Reed in the EETS edition of "The Life of Syr Thomas More by Ro: Ba: "(1950),311-314.
- (3) CRS 22 (1921) : 102ss.
- (4) Cf. "The Ecclesiastical Commission and Catholicism in the North 1562-1577" (1960) by Mr.P.Tyler (published by Thomas C. Godfrey of Armstrong Duffield Ltd., Stonegate, York at 8/6). By kind permission of the author I have quoted at length from his chapter on the More, Hussey and Metham families (pp.25-46). I have also used some other extracts from the records of the Eccleesiastical Commission (now preserved at the Borthwick Institute in York), some communicated to me by Father Hugh Aveling OSB and a few I transcribed myself.
- (5) Another example in Essex Recusant 1(1959):17-18.0ther examples appear in the Star Chamber records.
- (6) CRS 22 (1921) : 102ss.
- (7) Under Monday November 14, 1580 (fol.63v).
- (8) A History of Barnburgh, by J. Stanley Large, privately printed 1952. The List of Rectors on p.24 does not correspond with information in the Ecclesiastical Commission at least for the years 1559 1580.
- (9) Cf. Essex Recusant 2 (1960), pp.44 45.
- (10) PCC 67 Stafforde. Published in Essex Recusant 2(1960)

(11) A.W.Reed, op. cit. p.312. (:76 - 85.

# P.R.O. E.377/57: ESSEX RECUSANTS IN AN EXCHEQUER DOCUMENT 1582 - 1642

Mother Nicholas and Mother Joseph Mary, OSU.

ADDENDUM: By an oversight the name of Anne Ruckwood, wife of Thomas Ruckwood of East Tilbury was omitted from the last instalment (p.83) between the names of Anne Wright and John Paschall.

# MEMBRANE 13 (DORSO)

Period: Jan. 1 1615-J	une 1615. Convicted Thurs. a	Trer.
·	Epiphan	y 1616.
William Ellynott	Langham, weaver	£120
Elizabeth Convers	Basildon, spinster	£120
Johanna Pullen	same, spinster, wife of William, husbandman	£120
John Crouche	Gt. Hallingbury, yeoman	£120
William Chapman	Chigwell, husbandman	£120
Robert Casselyne	Canuedon, husbandman	£120
Maria Jerman	Gt. Dunmow, spinster, wife of John, husbandman	£120 .
Robert Lawrence	Tolleshunt Knights, husbandman	£120

# Period: May, 1615 & July 20 - October 7, 1616. Convicted: July 20, 1616.

Israel Fryer	Walden, gent.	£80
Elizabeth Hall	same, spinster	£80
George Robnett	same, yeoman	£80
Richard Turner	same, gent.	£80 quit
James Appletree	Leyton, yeoman	£80
John Crouche	Gt. Hallingbury, yeoman	£80
Christiana Dawson	Walthamstow, widow	£80
George Tylor	Lt. Dunmow, yeoman	£80
Thomas Crawley	Manuden, armiger	£80
Edward Raye	same, gent.	£80
Margaret Mason	same, spinster	£80
William Hunt	Boreham, yeoman	£80
John Hayward	Bulmer, yeoman	€80
Maria Lennard	Lt.Canfield, widow	£80
Thomas Burton	Lt.Sampford, yeoman	£80
John Winterfloud	same, yeoman	£80
	200	

William Thurgood	same, yeoman	£80
Nich. (Rich?) Chaplyn	same, yeoman	€80
	<b>,</b>	
MEMBRANE 14 (RECTO)		
Katherine Greene	Lt.Sampford, spinster	£80
William Greene	same, armiger	£80 quit
John Greene	same, gent	£80 T
Frances Greene	same, spinster	£80
Thomas Greene	same, gent	€80
Robert Perry	same, yeoman	£80
John Mann	same, yeoman	£80
Maria Mann	same, spinster	£80
Anne Clarence	same, spinster	£80
Anne Man	same, spinster	£80
George Wharton	Hutton, yeoman	£80
Nicholas Ingham	Downham, yeoman	£80
Francis Boult	same, yeoman	£80
Elizabeth Convers	Basildon, widow	£80
Liddea Convers	same, spinster	£80
Philip Walgrave	White Notley, gent	£80
William Whitbread	same, servant of Philip	
WILLIAM WILL OUL OCC	Walgrave	280
Robert Hunte	same, gent	£80
Robert Smith	Gt. Dunmow, yeoman	£80
Anne Jenins	same, spinster	£80
Dorothy Jenins	same, spinster	£80
Alice Dennys	same, spinster	£80
Anthony Jenins	same, gent	£80
Elizabeth Cranwis	same, widow	£80
Elizabeth Cranwis	same, spinster	£80
Alice Smart	same, widow	£80
Johanna Godfrey	same, spinster	€80
Robert Chambleyne	same, yeoman	£80
Maria Slinge	Gt. Baddow, wife of Richard	£80
Gillian Hunt	gent Boreham, wife of William	£80
Maria Crabbe	East Tilbury, wife of	£80
Johanna Pullen	Roger Basildon, wife of William	€80
Maria White	White Notley, wife of	£80
	Edward, gent	200
Elizabeth Jenins	Gt. Dunmow, wife of	£80
Elizabeth Jenins	Richard, gent same, wife of Anthony	£80
TITIO ON TONIEND	- 125 -	

# MEMBRANE 14 (DORSO)

Johanna Thredder	same, wife of Roger	£80
Winifred Smith	same, wife or Robert	£80
Elizabeth Dennys	same, wife of John junior	£80
Maria Jerman	same, wife of John	£80
Getty Clarcke	Boxted, wife of John	£80
Katherine Slinge	Gt. Baddow, wife of Richard	081
Grace Hayward	Bulmer, wife of John	£80

Period: May, 1617 & March 2 - 30, 1618. Convicted: March 2, 1617.

Lady Susanna Bowcher Thomas Brugges or Bridges	West Ham, spinster same, armiger	£40 £40 quit
Alice Smarte	Gt. Dunmow, spinster	£40
William Thurgood	Gt. Wendon, gent	£40 quit £40
Alice Butcher William Bancks	same, spinster same, gent	£40
William Hunt	Boreham, yeoman	£40
Edward White	White Notley, gent	£40
Anthony Gates	same, yeoman	£40
John Answorth	Wimbish, gent	£40
Elizabeth Jennings	Gt. Dunmow, wife of Anthon gent	y£40
Elizabeth Dennys	same, wife of John junior	£40
Anne Thurgood	Gt. Wendon, wife of Willia	m£40
Martha Bancks	same, wife of William	£40
Juliana Hunt	Boreham, wife of William	240
Maria White	White Notley, wife of Edwar	rd£40
Agnes Wrighte	same, wife of Henry	£40
Johanna Hayward	same, wife of Thomas	£40

# MEMBRANE 15 (RECTO)

Period: Jan. 1618 & July 20 - Sept. 14, 1618. Convicted: July 20, 1618.

William Nelstropp William Thurgood	Ramsden Bellowes, yeoman Gt. Wenden, gent	£60 £60 quit
Alice Butcher	same, spinster	£60
Peter Thurgood	same, yeoman	£60 quit
William Banes	same, yeoman	£60
Thomas Adams	White Notley, carpenter	£60
Henry Whitbread	same, yeoman	£60 quit
	7.06	

Isabella Heydon	same, spinster	. £60
Edward White	same, gent	£60
Anthony Gates	same, yeoman	£60
Maria Nelstropp	Ramsden Bellows, wife of William	<b>£</b> 60
Anne Thurgood	Gt. Wenden, wife of William	£60
Florence Thurgood	same, wife of Peter	£60
Martha Banes	same, wife of William	£60
Rhoda Banckes	same, wife of George	£60
Polma Addams	White Notley, wife of Thomas	£60
Annabella Burke	same, wife of John	£60
Maria White	same, wife of Edward	<b>£</b> 60
Agnes Wright	same, wife of Henry	£60
Johanna Haward	same, wife of Thomas	£60
MEMBRANE 15 (DORSO)	,	
	March 8 - April 5, 1619.	
Convicted: March 8, 1	.019.	
Nicholas Ingham	Downham, husbandman	£40
Margaret Ingham	same, wife of Nicholas	£40
Maria Grateley	Walthamstow, wife of John	£40
George Wharton	Hutton, yeoman	£40
Bridget Mildmay	Gt. Baddow, wife of Walter, gent	£40
William Nelstropp	Ramsden Belhouse, yeoman	£40
Maria Nelstropp	same, wife of William	£40
William Birde	Stondon Massey, gent	<b>£</b> 40
Katherine Birde	same, widow	£40
Rachel Hooke	same, widow	€40
Charles Chalke	same, yeoman	£40
Katherine Hooke	same, spinster	£40
Period: October 1618.	- March 1619. Convicted: Sept	tember,1619
John Wiseman	Wimbish, armiger	£120 quit
John Aynsworth	same	£120
Katherine Bird	Stondon, spinster	£120
Katherine Hooke	same, spinster	£120
Charles Hill	same, yeoman	£120
Katherine Hooke	same, spinster	£120
John Phitheon	Stanford Rivers, gent	£120
Hester Brewster	Ramsden Bellowes, widow	£120

Nicholas Ingram John Jennings Matthew Cranishe Elizabeth Jermyne Alice Smith John Boothe Anne Combers  Downham, husbandman £1 £1 £2 £2 £3 £3 £3 £3 £3 £4 £5 £5 £6 £6 £6 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7 £7	120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120
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(end of Membrane 15 dorso)

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# by J.A. Williams, M.A.

In one of his few allusions to eighteenth-century Catholicism, the author of a recent volume in the Oxford History of England refers to "Roman Catholic Squires" who "might make converts out of their social inferiors in the village" (1) and a certain amount of evidence has come to light which seems to support the view that social and economic, no less than theological, considerations may have played some part in making conversions in penal times. Such an opinion is stated in a report, now among the State Papers at the Public Record Office, concerning the charitable and educational activities of the Petre family in Essex. This report, and Lady Petre's rejoinder to it, are printed in full at the end of this article, while the subject of the Petre schools was dealt with by Mr. E.S. borrall in an earlier issue of this journal (vol.1, no.3, pp. 109 - 114).

The purpose of these pages is twofold: to reproduce in full the two documents at the Public Record Office, which are of course, specifically connected with the county of Essex, and to draw attention to similar evidence from two other counties so that the Essex material may be viewed against a wider background.

That Catholics all too often abandoned their Faith from worldly motives is a commonplace, but it is a little surprising to find that the process operated in reverse, even on quite a humble scale. Yet at various dates throughout the eighteenth century we find this suggested in contemporary documents, beginning with the Essex report dated 1720, to be cited later, and continuing with other reports, from Oxfordshire and Wiltshire in the 1730's and the 1760's.

Thus in 1731 or 1732 Thomas Stonor, of the Oxfordshire recusant family, was accused by Bishop Potter of dispensing charity in order to make converts to Catholicism. To this accusation Stonor "sent an answer in writing that 'twas no manner of design to gain over Proselytes, and that let the Bishop do what he would, he was resolved, so far as he was able, to persist in his charities. Thus such stingy Prelates as Potter will neither do charity

themselves nor permit others to do it".(2)

In 1767 a Wiltshire vicar, faced with the perhaps uncomfortable necessity of explaining to his bishop the presence of nearly two hundred papists in his parish, remarked "To account for so great a number, I must observe, that Tisbury is more extensive and populous than any other Country Parish in your Lordship's Diocese; and moreover that Ld Arundell of Wardour is Ld of the Manor and living near us, and consequently many of the lower class of people depending chiefly on him for their subsistence and following his Lordship for Loaves and Fishes."(3). Here again is the suggestion that something very like the principle cujus regio eius religio was operating on a landlord - and - tenant basis.

By this time proselytising, by whatever means, was probably somewhat less risky than in the 1720's and it is perhaps significant that whereas the Tisbury case remained a local matter the Essex instance was brought to the attention of the government and forms the subject of the following documents among the State Papers:-

# P.R.O. Reference: S.P. 35/22, No.42.

Report on the Petre family by Essex J.P.s, 27 July 1720.

"Sir,

In obedience to yours of the 21st of July written to each of us by Order of their Excellencies the Lords Justices concerning the Endeavours used by Lord Petre's family to pervert his Ma Subjects to the Romish superstition and requiring us to make our enquiry on several heads therein mentioned, and to cause those whom we shall find offenders to be presented at the next Assizes; We have taken the best method we can think of to perform their Lordp's commands and our duty, which the shortness of the time before the Assizes would allow. And we here transmit to you an account of our proceedings.

Wee appointed a Meeting for our Selves on Wednesday the 27th at Ingatestone in the Neighbourhood of Lord Petre to which we did by letter invite the Clergy round about to the number of Twenty to let us have the favour of their Company, acquainting them with their Excellencies the Lords Justices' Commands to us. They very generally came in; and some of them open in giving information about the Matters whereof we enquired and were free to do what we desired further of them.

We learnt from them, as well as from publick report, that there are two Mass Chappels, one at Ingatestone Hall and the other at Thorndon Hall, both seats of the Lord Petre, where there is as publick resort upon Sundays and Holydays as to the Churches. These things we Recommend to the Ministers of Ingatestone and Thorndon and to their Churchwardens to get evidence of, and to present to the Grand Jury at the Assizes.

We had information of four popish schools, one in Ingatestone, one at Ingrave and two at Margreting (some of which our informers desire might not be called popish schools but schools taught by Papists) and one of the schools is supported by the young Lady Dowager Petre where several Children are boarded at her expence and where all the children of the parish are taught to read. The School-mistress of these several schools we have Recommended to the Ministers and Churchwardens of the several parishes, in which they are, to present also to the Grand Jury.

There is another School taught by a popish School-mistress in East Thorndon where the Minister of the parish tells us the Church Catechism is taught and where sayeth himself sends his own Children.

We received information of about fifty new Converts or suspected new Converts to popery, including Children of Protestants who have been taken from their Parents by their permission in the way of Charity. Some of these new Converts we propose to send for in due time and tender them the Oaths appointed by Law. These Converts are generally of the poorer sort of people, and by our accounts they seem to us to have been inveigled by such Acts and Charitys, and most probably, alwayes, and sometimes certainly by Lord Petre's family; But it will be difficult by any proof to fix these things upon any one in particular or to prove

these arts used so as to make the person using them criminal, the conversion to popery did follow. It is observable that new Converts have seemingly been more distinguished in acts of Charity than old papists who have made complaints of their being neglected.

We have nothing further to add but that we received a letter from the old Lady Dowager Petre relating to the school as Margreting aforementioned supported by her daughter (now in the North of England) which in justice to the family we joyn to our report and in favour of them make no Observations upon

27th July, 1720. Wee are Sr

Your most humble Servts.

E. Williamson

F. Gardiner

Anth. Collins

A. Prescott. "

On a separate sheet, Lady Petre's letter:-

"Gentlemen,

I understand you have a Meeting at Ingatston to-day uppon some Representation given in a /illegible / of my Famelly and Perticularly of my Daughters Charity. Where-uppon Gentlemen I send this to assure you y if my Daughters compassion for y Poor in any Respect the Innocently meant by her has been y occasion of offence to her Neighbours and given Displeasure to y Government she shall dissitt /sic / for the time to come and ther shall be noe more Reume for Complaint of y kind.

I am Gentlemen

Your Servant

M (?) Petre. "

# P.R.O. Reference: S.P. 36/77, No.24.

Extract from anonymous information to the Duke of New-castle, dated 14 Dec, 1745.

" - - - My Lady Petres at Ingatstone in Essex has made itt her business by her self and servants (in makeing presents and putting people into Farms etc.) to ingage a great many to profess the Roman Riligion and draw them from their Allegiance by w means she is become so polular  $\sqrt{\text{sic}}$  that all the Neighbours (espesially the meaner sort) though they abhorr their prensiples are afraid to inform of their Practices for fear of their Malice - - "

### NOTES:

- (1) J.Steven Watson, The Reign of George III (1960), p. 58.
- (2) Cited by Dom J. Stonor, Stonor, (Newport 1951), p. 288.
- (3) Diocesan Archives, Salisbury: Returns of Papists, Box 1.

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### by Edw. S. Worrall

The returns of Papists from Essex parishes in the years 1767 and 1780 are sufficiently complete to allow of an interesting study of the names favoured two hundred years ago. In some returns names are deliberately omitted, but others allow us to know the Christian names of 745 Essex Catholics, of whom 373 males shared 60 names and 372 females had 44 names.

The most popular names were, of course, Mary (103) and John (75), for our sample does not provide many surprises. Mary with 27% is higher than the national average of 24% of all female children baptized Mary in the second half of the 18th century; John with 20% is closer to the average of 19%. Anne is higher with 16.6% than the average of 14%. Other popular names Elizabeth (13.7%), Thomas (12%) and William (11%) do not reach the national averages of 19, 16 and 20% respectively.

The ten most favoured boys' names are John (75), Thomas (44), James (43), William (41), Robert (18), Joseph (16), George, Charles and Michael (each 13) and Francis (12).

The ten most favoured girls' names are Mary (103), Ann or Anne (62), Elizabeth (51), Jane (23), Sarah (15), Frances (13) with 3 more who spelled it Francis and 1 Fanny, Catharine and Martha (each 12), Eleanor or Eleonora (9) with 1 Ellen, and Margaret (9).

It will be noticed that Tom has a strong lead over Dick (5) and Harry (8). It may be as well to note that the modern first ten include six of these boys' names and seven of these girls' names, the ones that do not make the grade being Thomas, Joseph, George and Francis, with Catharine Martha and Eleanor.

Eighteenth century recusants seem to have preferred James among popular names much more than their neighbours. The names of the Stuart royal family - James, Charles, Mary,

Anne and Elizabeth - are preferred to the Hanoverian names, George, Lewis (1) and Frederick (0), or Sophia (1), Dorothy (2) and Eleonora. What does seem surprising is the popularity of William (11% against the national 20%). Pairs of children, William and Mary, are common; and many a William found a spouse in Mary too.

What about the more unusual girls' names? A number of names which were popular in the 17th century were still found, such as Sarah, Martha and Ruth (2), together with Lucy (2) and Lucinda (2 girls of the same age in the Mountnessing), Lidia (a poor widow of Witham), Delphy Macdonnah a maid of Navestock, and Philadelphia Manders, mother and daughter of West Thorndon. South weald could boast of Diana. Phoebe (also known at East Thorndon and West Ham), Ursula and Teresia. This last was the preferred spelling at South weald. Witham and Dast Thorndon rather than Teresa found at Fryerning; it was particularly a recusant name and we must remember that the Carmelites were then known as Teresians. Rebecca was known at Great Totham and Ingrave, and Eujane (a form of Eugenia) at Navestock. Thomazin of Margaretting had a mediaeval name taken up again. Susannah (6) was still preferred to Susan (only 1).

Constantia Sparks, an elderly married woman, shopkeeper of Ashden, was in advance of her time with such a name, while the three Winifreds perhaps commemorated the pilgrimage to Holywell which continued throughout penal times.

Only five Papists are given more than one Christian name in the returns and three of those are Petres of Thorndon Hall. It was unusual to have two Christian names until the 19th century. Little six year old Elizabeth Mary Magdalen Walmesly of West Thorndon and Miss Jane Frances Teresa Risdon, a sixteen year old girl of Stapleford Tawney are recorded in full in 1767.

Mediaeval saints' names were given at the baptism of boys as they are today, but, except for those in the list of the top ten, account for only about 40 names - Henry (8), Antony (6), Christopher (6), Richard (5), Edward, Hugh and Nicholas (3 each), together with Bernard, Benedict, Dominic, Edmund, Eustace, Erasmus and Martin.

Another forty are Biblical names, chiefly from the Old Testament. These were common in the Middle Ages because of the popularity of mystery plays and they had a revival in the 17th century. Hence in our lists Abraham (2), Barnaby (2), Benjamin (3), Daniel (8), Isaac (2), Jeremiah (2), Jacob (2), Jonathan, Luke (3), Mark, Peter (7), Samuel (3), Simon (2) and Stephen. There are two surprising names: Shadrack Fetch, footman to Thomas Walmesly, the steward of Lord Petre at Thorndon, and Caleb Howard, a bricklayer of South weald.

There are two long 1767 lists of Irish potato pickers, mainly an itinerant population, returned in the two parishes of Leyton and West Ham. In neighbouring parishes their stay was thought to be too temporary to justify taking their names. They supply us with 101 Christian names, including 19 women, and it is necessary to see whether this considerable group upsets any conclusions drawn from treating the Essex names as a whole.

The general answer is that they tend to follow the pattern set by English recusants, with some exceptions; they provide 6 out of 7 Patricks, 6 out of 8 Daniels, 7 out of 13 Michaels, all 3 Judiths and both Hannahs, and account for most of the names of apostles and evangelists. But they share the most popular names except Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Frances, Joseph and George. There are even 2 Williams.

It remains but to acknowledge the source of the information here used. The 1767 Essex returns are now at the Lambeth Palace Library and the 1780 returns are the property of the Catholic Record Society. The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names by E.G. Withycombe is invaluable and the counting of names was done by the Worrall family.

### STANFORD RIVERS:

Many of the churches with which our ancestors dotted the Essex countryside stand in places that still preserve their old-time rural setting and tranquil atmosphere. The Norman church of St. Mary, Stanford Rivers, is such a one, standing in a secluded spot about a quarter of a mile from the main Romford to Ongar road. It was by the kindness of the Rector and his wife that I was able to visit the church and examine its brasses and tombstones on two lovely afternoons in October when the golden light of the autumn sun shone full on the thirteenth-century wooden belfry and lead-covered spire, rising from the west end of the nave. Damage caused by blast during the last war has been repaired; the church is in good condition and has recently been redecorated.

St. Mary's is rich in memorials of its Catholic past; the thirteenth-century octagonal baptismal font and the tombs of those buried there in the tranquil days before our recusancy period beings - the little "Chrysom Child", Thomas Grevile, who died in his "tendyr age, shortly after birth, in 1492 (his mother's brass was with his, but it disappeared about twenty-five years ago); Robert Barrow and Alys, his wife, 1504; Thomas Grene, 1534. The fact that the Grevile and Barrow tombs are under the altar-table suggests that the east wall was at some time moved inwards towards the former chancel and what was originally the sanctuary has disappeared.

Within our period of the penal times come the memorials to Anne Napper and the Petres of Belhouse, Stanford Rivers.

Anne Napper's brass is just outside the chancel, on the south wall. Beneath the shield, which is now missing, is an effigy of the mother kneeling in prayer with her six sons, and under this the inscription:

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Here before lyeth Anne Napper late the wyfe of
William Napper gent And daughter to William
Shelton Esquier who deptd ye viith of August 1584
In token of whose vertuous Lyffe
And constant sacred love
And that her memory shoulde Remayne
And never hence Remove
Her husband in his tyme of lyffe
This monument did leave his wiffe.

According to information supplied by the Essex Record Office: William Shelton, of Ongar Park, Anne's father, is commemorated by a brass at Puncknowle, near Bridport, Dorset. His inscription describes how he married Anne Shelton "after xxi yeres travell in foreyn landes". William Napper was brother of the judge, Sir Robert Napper, and was of Scottish descent. Probably Edward Napper, who looked after Sir William Petre's Oxfordshire interests, was a member of the Somerset branch of the family.

The Petre tombs are, with one exception, in good condition and easily legible.

### THE INSCRIPTIONS

(The notes added are from: - "Genealogical Collections illustrating the History of the Roman Catholic Families of England, based on the Lawson MS. Part I Fermor. Part II Petre. Printed for private circulation only. 1887." ESSEX RECORD OFFICE).

In what is now the sanctuary:

1. On the gospel side, next to the wall:-

Coat of Arms

Here lyes ye body of William Petre Esqr of this Parish Stanford Rivers who died ye 12 of November 1686 Aged 56 Years. On the same tombstone:

Here lyeth also Anne Petre Ye wife of ye above named
William Petre she was
Ye Daughter of Mr Caldwell
of Cantes Hall in Essex she
died ye 4 of May 1686 aged
years (no number given)

Note: This William Petre of Belhouse, Esq., was the eldest son and heir of William Petre, who died 1677 (see later). His will was dated 23 August 1686; (4 Lloyd 153).

Anne, his wife, was daughter of Daniel Caldwell; her will dated 10 September, 1687; pr. 14 May, 1688. Certificate of publication of her intended marriage at St. Giles in the Fields, Middlesex, 9 July 1656.

## 2. Next to the above: -

Here lyeth the Body of
John Petre of Bell House, Esqr
Who departed this life the 2 d of
February 1762
in the 25th year of his Age.
Requiescat in Pace. Amen.

## 3. Next to 2:-

Coat of Arms

Under this sad Marblestone
Lyes shee, Once the beloved One
Ann Petre

Late Wife to W.m. Petre of Belhouse In this Parish of Stanford Rivers

in

the County of Essex Esqr.

And

Daughter to Robt. Powtrell of the County of Derby Gent.

She Departed this life Febr. 21. 1688 In ye: 23d Yeare of her Age.

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Note: Ann, daughter of Robert Toward and Fowtrell, who Co. Derby, was heir to her brother, William Fowtrell, who ob.s.p.

4. Next to 3, in front of altar:

Here lyeth the Body of
William Petre of Belhouse Esqr.
who departed this life
the 24th of Septembers 1745. Aged 52
And his two Children
William and Mary Petre.
R.I.P.

Here lyeth the Body of
The Right Honourable the
Lady Mary - Tudor - Petre
who departed this Life the
16th Of March 1756 Aged 50

Notes: This William Petre was eldest son and heir to William Petre, who died 1728, and his wife Penelope. (See pg.5). He was born 27 March 1694; was confirmed by Bishop Giffard, 16 Feb. 1700. Will dated 11 Dec. 1744; pr 17 April 1746. Foley tells us that he went to the Jesuit School at St. Omer, then to the English College, Rome in 1712; he left this college in 1715.

Mary Tudor Radcliffe was the only daughter of Edward, second Earl of Derwentwater, and his wife Lady Lary Tudor, daughter of King Charles II. She was sister of James, 3rd Earl of Derwentwater, who was executed. She was born in Arlington Street, London, 6 Cct. 1697: was sole executrix to her husband's will. Married William Petre 10 June 1723. Her will dated 10 Sept. 1747: pr. 4 June 1756.

5. Next to 4, in front of altar:

Here lyeth intered
Ye Body of William Petre
Esqr. 2 d. Sonn of William
Lord Petre Who departed

January 1677. Aged 75. Requiescat in Pace.

In the same tomb:

Here lyes also the Body Of Mris Lucy Petre. Daughter Of Sr. Richard Fermor of Somerton in Oxford Shire Knight and Wife of the Sayd William Petre who Dyed the Third of March 1679

Requiescant in Pace.

Notes: In the genealogical table this William Petre is given as the 3rd son of the 2nd Lord Petre, born at Ingatestone on Wed. 28 July 1602; Gentleman Commoner of Exeter College, Oxford, 1612: was the first Nobleman of Wadham College, Oxford. Was buried at Stanford Rivers 19 Jan. 1677. Will dated 6 Mar. 1675; pr. 28 Jan. 1677 - 8.

Lucy, daughter of Sir Richard Fermor of Somerton, co. Oxon, was executrix to her husband's will 1677. Her will dated 10 Feb. 1679; pr. 8 May 1680.

6. On epistle side, next to wall:

Coat of Arms

In Brick Grave beneath this Marble, Are deposited the Remains of The Honourable George William Petre. Of Bell-House in this Parish. Second Son of Robert Edward Lord Petre He was born January 10th 1766, And died Universally beloved and Lamented In the 32d. Year of his Age, October 22nd 1797. Requiescat in Pace. Amen.

7. Under the altar-table, between the Grevile and Barrow tombs, and at the end of the tomb of her parents, a brass let into a small tombstone:

Here lyeth the body of Lucy Petre Daughter of William Petre Esq. born the fourth of March, and dyed ye ninth of October following 1637

Note: She was baptised the 5 March.

8. William Petre of Belhouse, (son of William Petre (died 1686) and Anne, daughter of Daniel Caldwell) married, as his first wife, Anne, daughter of Robert Powtrell; as his second wife, Penelope, daughter of John Woolfe and his wife, Anne, daughter of John Pinchon of Writtle. In his will, dated 19 April, 1728, he ordered that his body should be buried in the chancel of the church at Stanford Rivers, but I did not find his tomb there.

Level with the altar-table, beside the wall on the epistle side in Stanford Rivers church, is a badly worn tombstone, which, as far as I could decipher it. is evidently the tomb of their little son /? John /, who died in infancy and is not mentioned in the Belhouse pedigree, but he is mentioned in Brother Foley's "Records SJ" as the fourth child born to William and Penelope Fetres "John, born 1697, obiit infans."

7. The inscription, as far as legible:

Here lyeth the body of /? John / Petre the sonne of (illegible)
Petre Esq. and Penelope his
Wife. He dyed ye 30th /? day of / August 1697 in ye 5th month of his Age.

Emblem: A Tudor rose within a circle.

Nothing of Belhouse now remains, and the only traces left of this branch of the Petre family at Stanford Rivers are these tombs in the old church of St. Mary.

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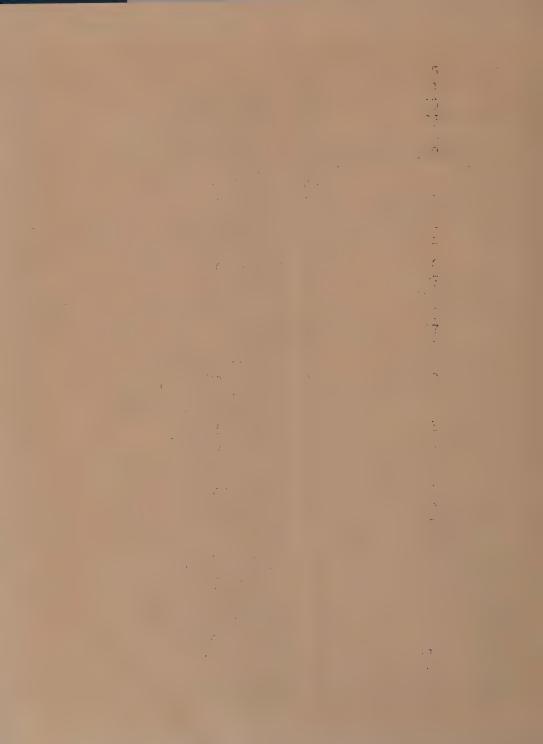
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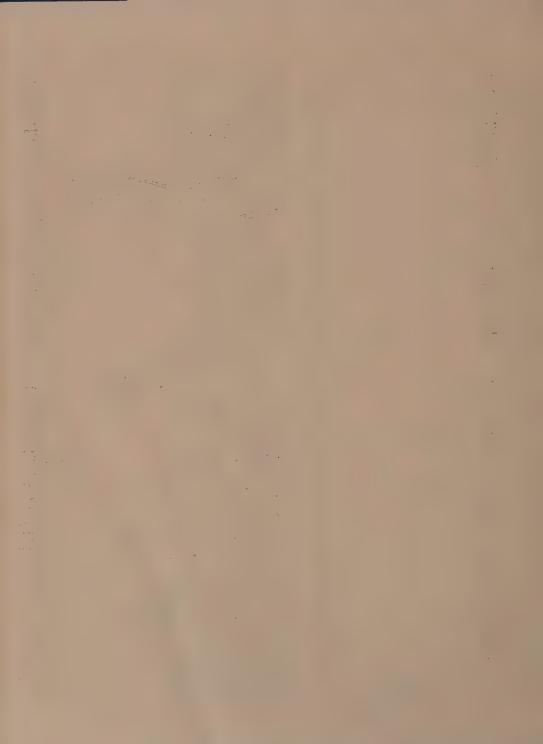
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